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ENG 4950-002: Literary History and Bibliography

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English 4950 Literary History and Bibliography Spring 2005

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Course Agenda

The purpose of this class is to help you put together an overview of the course of your literary study up to this point, with a look toward the larger contexts—historical, critical, social, personal—in which this study has taken place. As a group, we will read (quickly) through what amounts to the greatest hits of English literature, using this as a jumping off point to talk together about the significance of literary study, what one gains from it, and how each of us might pursue it in the future.

You will have one big writing task this semester in this course. I'll explain this more fully in class, but the gist of it is what has come to be called the personal bibliography project in which you will draw up a list of the things you have studied in or out of school to date. Along with this list, you'll write a fairly lengthy, detailed reading autobiography. Taken together, putting together the list and the paper, although time-consuming, is guaranteed to make you think about the course of your education, future vocational plans, and in general how this whole business of being an English major adds up for you at this moment.

Class expectations

1. Read the assignments. There might be quizzes.
2. Come to class. Missing a class or two is not a big deal; missing more than three or so is.
3. This is a discussion class, which means you have to participate in a vocal, tangible way. By the time you are a junior or a senior in college, the time for classroom silence has passed.
4. Final grades will reflect the degree to which you have met these expectations, along with the quality of your personal bibliography. If you want an A, act like an A student.